**Bhutan King's visit to India**

760. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Bhutan's King, Jigme Singhe Wangchuk, visited India during the month of November, 1990,

(b) if so, the names of the Indian leaders he met,

(c) the nature of talks held with Indian leaders,

(d) whether any agreement has since been signed, and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir. The King of Bhutan paid a four day visit to India during November 23—26, 1990

(b) During his visit, the King of Bhutan called on the President, Shri R. Venkataraman He also met the Prime Minister, the External Affairs Minister and the Finance Minister

(c) The discussions held with the Indian leaders centered round bilateral, regional and multi-lateral issues of mutual concern

(d) A memorandum of Understanding was signed between India and Bhutan on the 25th of November 1990, to prepare the Detailed Project Reports on the Tala Hydroelectric Project (Chukha II) and Wangohu Reservoir Scheme (Chukha III)

(e) The Tala Hydroelectric Project is a run of the river scheme and is expected to have and installed capacity of 1000 MW The Wangchu Reservoir Scheme involves the construction of a rock filled dam and is estimated to have an installed capacity of 500—600 MW The Detailed Project Reports are expected to be ready by December, 1993. The Memorandum of Understanding is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix CLVI, Annexure No. 16]

**Foreign Secretary's visit to Washington**

761. SHRI PRABHAKAR RAO KALVALA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Foreign Secretary visited Washington during the month of September, 1990,

(b) if so, the purpose of the visit,

(c) the nature of discussions held between the Foreign Secretary of India and the U.S. leaders, and

(d) whether any agreement has since been signed during the visit and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Foreign Secretary's visit to the US in September 1990 was in keeping with the well-established practice of periodic Indo-US bilateral consultations During his visit, the Foreign Secretary discussed Indo-US bilateral issues as well as a number of international issues of current importance

(d) No, Sir.

**Irrigation works in dry land areas**

762 SHRI SURESH PACHOURI Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether during the 8th plan period irrigation works in dry land areas will be strengthened,

(b) if so, the total dry land areas that will be covered during 8th plan;

(c) whether any concrete schemes have been prepared in this regard; and

(d) if so, whether Madhya Pradesh is also one of the States where the dry land works will be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) to (d) The proposals for the VIII Five Year Plan for creating additional irrigation facilities have not yet been finalised. However, the additional irrigation potential that would be created during VIII Plan through ongoing and new schemes, would benefit the dry land areas in Madhya Pradesh also In the VIII Plan, thrust will remain on completion of ongoing schemes

**Emergency Food Aid to the Soviet Union**

763 SHRI G G. SWELL Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether India have rushed emergency food aid to the Soviet Union;

(b) the amount of food delivered and the break-up of items, and

(c) whether the quantity of food that the Soviet Union will need has been assessed and if so, over what period?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have decided to provide USSR one million tonnes of wheat on a loan basis, as well as a gift of 20,000 tonnes of rice and other essential items such as medicines, medical supplies and processed food items. The first consignment consisting of medicine and food items has been sent by a special flight on 27th December, 1990.

(c) According to Soviet estimates, additional imports of Roubles 10 billion would be required in 1991 to tide over the present shortages.

**Visit of former Minister of External Affairs to Kuwait**

764. DR RATNAKAR PANDEY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Minister of External Affairs had visited Kuwait in August, 1990 after its occupation by Iraq;

(b) whether it is also a fact that he was the first Foreign Minister of another country who had visited Kuwait;

(c) whether it is also a fact that he travelled in a special chartered plane, known as "Millionaire Flight"; and

(d) if so, the list of those Indian nationals who were evacuated by the then Minister of External Affairs in this Millionaire Flight and what was the basis of their selection to travel with him in that flight?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir

(c) and (d) No, Sir The Minister of External Affairs travelled in an Indian Air Force transport aircraft on which 256 Indian nationals were brought to India, selected on the basis of medical or other exigencies and the recommendations of the local organisations of Indians

**News item captioned 'Madras Telephones face Equipment Supply Crunch'**

765 SHRI R GANESAN *alias* MISA R. GANESAN.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state.